

The fall of Ravenna had not disposed of the Goth problem. The stubborn garrison of Pavia held out and proclaimed a new king, HILDEBAD. Six imperial generals had been left in Italy, each with an independent command; they did not cooperate and the Goths rallied to the capable Hildebad, who recovered the plains of the Po. He

was assassinated in 541; but a fresh champion
arose - his nephew BADVILA, better
known as TOTILA, first of the knights of
the middle ages, one of the rare heroes on
whose name no stain has ever fastened;
he who was more worthy to be the
successor of Theodoric

about Oct 544

While TOTILA was negotiating with the imperial commander of Rome, the Goths of PAVIA offered him the Gothic kingship. He demanded that ERARIC be killed before he would accept. His demand was met.

He became king in place of ERARIC

552
541-542

1912 Dates J-BK

TOTILA, a noble Ostromyth
was overcome in battle of
TAGINAE by the imperial
general NARSES

541 to 552

The Italian Ostrogothic Kingdom

TOTILA.

541

RUGIAN ERARIC seized the Gothen
after the murder of HILDEBAD

541 & 542

Emperor Justinian's Constantinople
was ravaged by plague killing
perhaps 40% of the city's population
Bubonic plague

Winter
541/542

Phase 1.

In winter of 541/42 an authoritative command from Justinian got the general to decide on a vigorous offensive against the Goths on the north side of the Po. 12,000 soldiers, the entire field army in Italy, left the area around Ravenna and marched north against Verona. The campaign ground to a halt & they withdrew to the region between the rivers Reno and Forontia - Faenza, southwest of Ravenna. TOTILA called up his entire army of 5000 and went in pursuit